

**TOPIC: RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF MASTER OF SCIENCE AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN TOXICOLOGY AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**I. SUMMARY**

This item recommends approval for Colorado State University (CSU) to offer Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees in Toxicology. Note that this proposal is for more of a name and curricular change of already approved degrees than it is for completely new degrees.

**II. BACKGROUND**

**COMMISSION AUTHORITY**

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education's role and responsibility in the review of new academic programs at institutions operating under a performance contract is defined in §23-5-129, C.R.S., which states that:

(6) While operating pursuant to a performance contract negotiated pursuant to this section, the governing board of a state institution of higher education...

(b) Need not consult with nor obtain approval from the Colorado commission on higher education to create, modify, or eliminate academic and vocational programs offered by the institution, so long as such creations, modifications, and eliminations are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. Institutions shall submit information to the department demonstrating that the creation or modification of an academic or career and technical education program is consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission. The Colorado commission on higher education shall have the authority to override the creation or modification of an academic or vocational program if the change made by the governing board is inconsistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.

**OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED PROGRAM**

These proposed degrees are for more of a name change and a curricular change than for completely new degrees. The proposed M.S. and Ph.D. in Toxicology degrees replace CSU's currently approved M.S. and Ph.D. in Environmental Health. The following is summarized from CSU's proposal:

The establishment of an official graduate degree program in Toxicology at CSU will expand opportunities for graduate and veterinary students in the State of Colorado to

obtain training in Toxicology. Given the heavy focus on training MSB/Professional Science MS students, the proposed degree program at CSU is highly complementary to the program at UC Denver and largely addresses the needs of an unmet market niche in the state. In addition, the establishment of an official degree in Toxicology greatly expands opportunities for DVM students and residents seeking training in this field.

Additional information on this proposed degree, unrelated to fit with statutory role and mission, is attached (Attachment A).

#### **ROLE AND MISSION SUPPORT**

This degree supports CSU's statutory role and mission, which states in part:

*...Colorado state university shall be a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admission standards offering a comprehensive array of baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs.... C.R.S. 23-31-101*

#### **III. STAFF ANALYSIS**

Pursuant to Colorado Revised Statutes 23-5-129(6)(b), department staff finds that CSU's proposed Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Toxicology are consistent with the institution's statutory role and mission.

#### **IV. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends that the Commission approve Colorado State University's proposal to offer Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Toxicology.**

#### **V. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION**

Copies of all relevant materials are on file in the Academic Affairs Division and are available upon request.

#### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

§23-5-129, C.R.S. Governing boards - performance contract - authorization - operations